

PORT OF BLYTH.

1923

Annual Report

PRESENTED TO THE

RIVER BLYTH

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

BY

JAMES M. MACLACHLAN, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Port and the
Borough of Blyth.

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River Blyth Port Sanitary Authority.

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PORT MEDICAL OFFICER	Dr. J. M. MacLACHLAN.
SANITARY INSPECTOR	W. IRVING, A.R.S., Inst.
HOSPITAL	Miss DINGWALL (Matron.)
			Miss DAVIES.
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RIVER BLYTH
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

GENTLEMEN,

In compliance with the order of the Ministry of Health, and in terms of my appointment as Medical Officer, I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the work of the Authority for the year 1923.

During the year 2585 vessels arrived in the port and including 504 fishing craft, makes a grand total of 3089 vessels in 1923, as against 3308 in 1922.

The total registered tonnage of the ships being 2,060,202.

The crews numbered 46,300.

A most systematic and careful inspection and examination was made on all vessels arriving in the harbour, and during the year the Inspector made 282 special visits to ships through sickness, sanitation and rat inspection.

In addition to my usual inspection of ships, 32 vessels were visited by me for suspicious cases of sickness reported on their arrival in the harbour, and only in 5 instances was the disease of an infectious nature, 4 malaria. The cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and all made an excellent recovery. The crews' quarters were thoroughly fumigated and disinfected. 1 case of diphtheria was removed to the hospital from the s.s. Pandion.

THE TRADE OF THE PORT:—As in former years the main trade of the port is the export of coal, and in this respect the export of coal from the port for the year 1923 constitutes a record in the annals of the harbour—4,786,891 tons of coal being exported. The nearest approach to that total being in 1913 when 4,731,928 tons were exported.

The import trade has shown a steady increase over that of 1922. The figures being:—

1923			1922
6,357 tons of Cement	...	...	5,300 tons
35,488 loads of Timber	...	...	26,015 loads
1,041 tons of Tiles			
84 „ Slates			
64 „ Apples			

FISHING TRADE—For the year 1923, 504 fishing vessels (as against 525 in 1922) arrived in the river. Practically no fish was landed from them. The vessels calling chiefly to replenish their bunkers or putting in to harbour through stress of weather.

FOOD AND DRUGS' ACT.—No action was taken during the year under this Act.

WATER SUPPLY TO SHIPS.—This continues to be satisfactory, while the water boat has been periodically inspected and found to be in order.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S WEEKLY SUMMARY.—In view of the prevalence of infectious diseases at home and abroad, a careful examination and inspection of all incoming vessels is made by your sanitary staff, and in this respect the weekly returns from the Ministry are most helpful to your officials.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—During the year 37 cases of infectious diseases were admitted to the hospital, and 48 cases were discharged. Two cases proved fatal, 1 Pneumonia and 1 Enteric Fever? (Meningitis.)

30 cases were admitted from the Blyth Council.

6	„	„	River Blyth P.S. Authority.
1	„	„	Bedlingtonshire U.D. Council.

On the 31st December the number of patients in the hospital was nil.

Attached are the tabular statements of sickness on board ship—Hospital, Sanitary and Rat Inspection Reports for 1923, and I wish to express my appreciation for the very efficient manner in which your Sanitary and Hospital Staff have carried out their inspection duties during the year.

I have also to accord our thanks for the very valuable assistance given by H.M. Collector of Customs, Harbour Commissions' Staff and Harbour Master, all of whose services have been highly appreciated by your officials.

Copies of this Report will be sent to the Ministry of Health and the Northumberland County Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES M. MacLAHLAN, M.B.,
Port Medical Officer.

HOSPITAL REPORT.

Isolation Hospital, Blyth, 31st Dec., 1928.

To the Medical Officer of Health,

River Blyth Port Sanitary Authority.

Sir,

I beg to submit to you my report for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

During the year 37 cases of infectious diseases were admitted into the hospital, and 48 were discharged.

Admitted—21 cases Scarlet Fever.

4 „ Diphtheria.

1 case Erysipelas

3 cases Pneumonia.

2 „ Enteric Fever.

1 case Enteric Fever (Meningitis.)

1 „ Parotitis.

3 „ Malaria.

1 „ Malaria? and Endocarditis.

Discharged—28 „ Scarlet Fever.

4 „ Diphtheria.

1 case Erysipelas.

3 cases Pneumonia.

3 „ Malaria.

1 case Malaria? Endocarditis.

1 „ Parotitis.

5 cases Enteric Fever.

1 case Pneumonia (fatal)

1 „ Enteric (Meningitis (fatal.)

Under treatment

on 31st December, 1923—Nil.

HOSPITAL TABLE, 1923.

Date of Admission	NAME.	By whom sent.	Disease.	Date of Discharge
January 11	M. Woodman	Corp. of Blyth.	Scarlet Fever	Feb. 16
" 17	E. Boyce	"	"	" 23
" 21	J. A. Dixon	Bed. U.D.C.	"	" 28
" 29	M. Common	Corp. of Blyth	"	" 28
" 30	A. Boyce	"	"	Mar. 3
Feby. 3	J. Davison	"	Diphtheria	Feby. 28
" 6	T. Banner	"	Erysipelas	" 24
" 8	C. Lillie	"	Scarlet Fever	Mar. 23
" 17	M. Routledge	"	Diphtheria	" 13
" 20	J. Duffy	"	Pneumonia	" 13
" 21	P. Petterson	P.S.A.	Diphtheria	" 2
March 6	E. Graham	Corp. of Blyth	Enteric Fever	April 21
" 7	M. Routledge	"	Scarlet Fever	" 7
" 21	G. Short	"	Pneumonia	" 21
April 14	K. Hoglund	P.S.A.	Malaria	" 24
May 11	J. Rostvik	"	Parotitis	June 5
" 24	C. Nicholson	Corp. of Blyth	Scarlet Fever	July 3
June 4	E. Gates	"	Enteric Fever	" 3
" 15	N. Haggerty	"	Scarlet Fever	" 21
" 15	A. Haggerty	"	"	" 21
" 18	N. Lenidup	P.S.A.	Malaria	" 16
July 3	E. Ermapsee	"	"	" 27
" 16	G. Cole	Corp. of Blyth	Scarlet Fever	Aug. 25
" 16	C. Cole	"	"	" 25
" 20	E. Smith	"	"	" 25
" 26	H. Smith	"	"	" 25
August 1	S. Kamoo	P.S.A.	Malaria	" 25
" 1	M. Charlton	Corp. of Blyth	Scarlet Fever	Sept. 13
" 11	A. Straughan	"	Enteric & Meningitis (fl)	Aug 19
" 17	R. Weatherburn	"	Scarlet Fever	Sept. 22
Sept. 28	E. Bulford	"	Diphtheria	Oct. 23
Oct. 15	J. Forsyth	"	Scarlet Fever	Nov. 24
" 16	M. Perry	"	Pneumonia (fatal)	Oct. 24
" 16	T. Dawson	"	Scarlet Fever	Nov. 24
" 17	J. Dawson	"	"	" 24
" 19	A. Dawson	"	"	" 24
" 26	E. McKeay	"	"	" 29

Yours faithfully,

B. DINGWALL.

MATRON.

Vessels Boarded and Inspected by the Medical Officer of Health.

32 Vessels have been specially inspected by the Port Medical Officer for suspected infectious disease.

The following Table gives the list of vessels inspected during the year on account of sickness during the voyage, or at time of arrival, or during their stay in the port.

NAMES OF VESSELS REPORTING SICKNESS FOR 1923.

Date.	On Voyage.	On Arrival.	In Port.	Where from	Rating of Sick.	Nationality.	Nature of Sickness.
Jan. 6	Cnovalleria	Romo		London	Sailor	Swede	Accident
" 22		"		Dieppe	Fireman	Dane	Rheumatism
" "		"		"	Sailor	"	Catarrh
" "		"		"	Mess-Boy	"	"
" 23		"		"	Sailor	"	Neurasthenia
" 28		Oscar		Sund ^{land}	Captain	Swede	Influenza
" "		Kalmarsund		Caais	Captain	"	Noninfectious
" "		"		"	Bo'sun	"	"
Feb. 1		Velaug		Tyne	Captain	Norge	Influenza
" 2		Dragset		Stavanger	Sailor	"	Tonsillitis
" 8		Inge Maersk		Ghent	Steward	Dane	Pleurisy
" 16		Hulda Maersk		Hull	Sailor	"	Catarrh
" "		Belize		Bergen	Chief Officer	Norge	"
" 17				New York	3rd Engineer	British	Accident
" 20	Tobolask		Pandion	Ystad	Sailor	Swede	Diphtheria
" 21	Prussia			Emden	Captain	German	Removed to P S Hos.
" 22			P. G. Halvorsen	Ardrossan	Fireman	Norge	Accident
" 23			Gudrid	Rieme	"	"	Catarrh
" 27		Bjarke		Copenhagen	Captain	Danish	"
" 1		Rosenberg		Aarhus	Sailor	"	Jaundice
Mar. 1		Drammenseren	" Lucy	Immingham	Fireman	Norge	Noninfectious
" 2				Stettin	"	Lettish	Venereal

NAMES OF VESSELS REPORTING SICKNESS.

Date.	On Voyage.	On Arrival.	In Port	Where from.	Rating of Sick.	Nationality.	Nature of Sickness.
Mar. 14		Brynhild	Liana	Tyne	Captain	Danish	Influenza
" 16		"	Leonid Krassin	" Osearsunde	Sailor	" Swede	" Boils
" 19			"	Ghent	Fireman	British	Venereal
" 19			"	"	2 Firemen	"	Diarrhoea
" 19			"	Norkopping	Fireman	Swede	Diarrhoea
" 19			"	"	Sailor	"	Downed
" 24		Bernhard	"	"	2nd Officer	"	Accident
" 25			Anton Stubbs	Emden	Chief Officer	German	Venereal
" 6			Helios	Rotterdam	Sailor	Norge	Noninfectious
April 6				London	Fireman	Finnish	Malaria
" 6				Holbeach			Removed to P.S.H.
" 20	Oswald		Irmacos	Iceland	Sailor	Swede	Accident
" 26					Chief Officer	Norge	Rheumatism
" 30		Certo	Otte Sinding	Antwerp	Steward	Norge	Removed to K.M.H.
May 4		Bjogna		Hamburg	Sailor	"	Noninfectious
" 12	Carisbrook			Grimsby	Chief Officer	"	Mumps
" 13	Bremersvold			Stettin	Fireman	British	Catarrh
" 15				Copenhagen	Sailor	Danish	Accident
" 15			Othem	W. Hartlepool	"	Swedish	"
" 18	Dva, m.v.		Ruth	Halmstad	"	Norge	Noninfectious
" 18			Asta	Bergen	"	"	Accident
" 20			Gustafsberg	Rouen	Fireman	Swedish	"
" 23	Siretul			Hartlepool	Sailor	"	"
" 29				Hamburg	Bo'sun	Roumanian	Accident
June 10	Kl Liebaechte		Skinningrove	Grangemouth	Fireman	British	Neuralgia
" 10		Uskmouth		Ghent	2 Fireman	Russian	Accidents
" 12		Ingun		Hamburg	Fireman	British	"
" 13				Reikavik	Chief Officer	Norge	Venereal
" 16			Thornley	London	Sailor	British	Malaria
" 16			Gottfrid	London	"	Swedish	Removed to P.S.H.
" 17			"	"	"	"	Catarrh
" 17				Tyne	Chief Officer	British	Pleurisy
" 25	Inchbrayrock		Rene	Antwerp	Fireman	Belgian	Accident
July 3						(Mal.ria)	Removed to P.S.H.

NAMES OF VESSELS REPORTING SICKNESS.

Date.	On Voyage.	On Arrival.	In Port.	Where from	Rating of Sick.	Nationality.	Nature of Sickness.
" 12	Wellpark		Alstern	Ghent	Sailor	British	Noninfectious
" 28			Sunhaven	Rouen	Fireman	Swedish	Drowned
" 28			"	Antwerp	2 Firemen	British	Catarrh
" 28			"	"	1 Fireman	"	Malaria, removed to Port San Hospital
" 30			Starlight	Randers	Sailor	British	Accident
Aug. 5	Caroline.			Hartlepool	Bos'un	Esthonian	"
" 10	Garabaldi			London	Chief Officer	Norge	"
" 15	Marc Leonhardt			Hartlepool	Fireman	German	"
" 24			Holmside	Rouen	Sailor	British	"
" 24							Noninfectious
" 26	Murie S			Harburg	Sailor	British	Removed to K.M.H.
Sept. 11			E. Dunford	Rouen	Fireman	British	Accident
" 28			Skule	London	2nd Engineer	Norge	Noninfectious
" 29	Hermød			Thorshaven	Fireman	Dane	Rheumatism
" 29	Sn. Schoder (t)			Gustemund	"	German	Accident
" 29			Trawler Bowe	Bremerhaven	Sailor	"	Noninfectious
Oct. 7	Krl Letbnechte			Emden	1 Fireman	Russian	Removed to K.M.H.
" 7			K. Liebnrecht		2 "	"	Noninfectious
" 7					1 Stewardess	"	"
" 13			Gerfrid	W. Hartlepool	Fireman	German	Kidney Disease
" 15				Rotterdam	Sailor	British	Fits
" 17	Linmoor			Tyne	"	"	Catarrh
Nov. 6		Trader Brisk		Rouen	Cook	Norge	"
" 6		Hastings Co.		Antwerp	2 Sailors	Norge	Removed to K.M.H.
" 8	Dampto	Elaine Llw'ln		Hamburg	Fireman	British	Noninfectious
" 9				Ostend	"	Norge	Accident
" 11		Skrymer		Amsterdam	Steward	"	"
" 28		Dallington		Antwerp	Sailor	British	Rheumatism
Dec. 1		Max Schmidt		Hamburg	Fireman	German	Catarrh
" 1		Ferm		Caen	Engineer	Norge	Rheumatism
" 6		Kollberg		London	2 Fireman	German	Noninfectious
" 7	Danekong m.v.			Grimsby	Engineer	Danish	Accident

NAMES OF VESSELS REPORTING SICKNESS.

Date.	On Voyage.	On Arrival.	In Port.	Where from.	Rating of Sick.	Nationality.	Nature of Sickness.
Dec. 18		Delaware					
" 19		Smut	Rosa	Ghent	Donkeyman	Belgian	Venereal
" 21		Erna		Copenhagen	Fireman	Danish	Noninfectious.
" 22		Falk		"	"	"	"
" 24		Gertrud		London	Engineer	German	London
" 26				"	Steward	"	Venereal
" 28				"	Captain	"	Rheumatism
" 29	Dora			Braila	Steward	Dutch	Venereal
" 29	Baume			Valencia	Fireman	Norge	Catarrh
" 29	"			"	Cook	"	Smallpox
" 29	"			"			Removed to Hospital,
" 29	"			"			at Hull, Dec 24th.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,

10 LOW QUAY,

BLYTH,

December 31st, 1923.

To the *Medical Officer of Health, Blyth Port Sanitary Authority*—

SIR,

I most respectfully submit to you the following Report of Sanitary work carried out during the year ending December 31st, 1923.

TABLE OF VESSELS ARRIVED.

	Foreign.	Coastwise.	Totals.
British Steam	547	466	1013
„ Sailing	nil	33	33
Foreign Steam	954	564	1518
„ Sailing	5	16	21
Fishing Vessels	330	174	504
	<u>1836</u>	<u>1253</u>	<u>3089</u>

Tonnage of Vessels arriving for being broken up, and also new vessels built at Blyth but returning after having engines fixed are not included in the following :—

Registered Tonnage of Vessels arriving	...	2,060,202
„ „ Fishing Vessels	...	37,179
Crews of Vessels examined	...	46,300
„ „ Fishing Vessels examined	...	5,687

Passengers, chiefly on holidays :—61 Aliens, 42 British, Total 103.

The importation of food stuffs has been practically nil during the year and fishing vessels calling here have chiefly wanted Bunkers, or put in for bad weather.

The fishing industry which was so flourishing before the war is now almost dead.

German Trawlers landing their catches in Aberdeen, or in Germany have formed the greater part of the fishing vessels arriving in Blyth.

**AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING BLYTH PORT SANITARY DISTRICT
DURING 1923.**

Vessels.	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number Reported Defective	Number of Orders Issued.	
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector		Stat.	Other Orders.
Foreign Steamers	1501	1389919	21	1494	123	NIL.	123
„ Sailing	5	2105		5	1	NIL.	1
„ Fishing	330	28102		320	NIL.	NIL.	NIL.
Total... Foreign...	1836	1420126	21	1819	124	NIL.	124
Coastwise Steamers	1030	660484	11	1010	69	NIL.	69
„ Sailing	49	7694		49	NIL.	NIL.	NIL.
„ Fishing	174	9077		172	NIL.	NIL.	NIL.
Total Coastwise ...	1253	677255	11	1231	69	NIL.	69
TOTAL .. Foreign & Coastwise	3089	2097381	32	3050	193	NIL.	193

282 Special visits have been paid to vessels through Sickness, Sanitation or Rat Inspection.

Lists of Infected Ports taken from the weekly Report of the Ministry of Health are regularly sent to H.M. Customs, and also to the Pilots.

When Vessels arrive at Blyth from Infected Ports and pay the crew off here, a list of the crew is taken with their home addresses, and notification of their arrival is sent on to the Medical Officer at the various destinations of the men.

The following vessels have been fumigated for Infectious Disease, Vermin or Rats.

Name of Vessel.	Where from.	Reason for Fumigating.
S.S. Pandion	Ystad	Infectious Disease
„ Le	Rouen	Rats
„ Rene	Antwerp	Infectious Disease
„ Sunhaven	Braila via Antwerp	do.
„ Elsdon	Constantinople via Portsmouth	Vermin and Rats
„ Havnoy	Tyne	Rats

The crew's quarters of the S.S. Magdaline Fischer were sealed up, and steamed for eight hours for vermin.

Two of the above vessels had materials on board for fumigating purposes, and the work was carried out under our supervision.

The fresh water boats have been periodically visited and found in good condition.

Practically all the mooring jetties and loading berths have the fresh water laid on to them, so that vessels get their drinking water chiefly from the mains.

This does not include the New Dock at Cambois where staiths are to be erected and until the water mains are laid in, vessels will have to be supplied with drinking water from the boats.

The briskness in the coal trade during the year has meant shorter loading turns for vessels in Port and Nuisances arising from waste food have been less frequently met with.

NUMBER OF VESSELS FOUND HAVING STRUCTURAL AND SANITARY DEFECTS.

Structural Arrangements.		Sanitary Defects.		Total.
	Foreign.	Coastwise.	Foreign.	
British Steam	22		22	63
Foreign Steam	14	7	87	130
				193

Defects in the above have been attended to as follows :—

Forcastles cleaned out	59
Water Closets washed out	18
Bilges cleaned out	7
Fresh Water Tanks cleaned out and cemented ..	11
Decks leaking	6
Defective Drainage to Forecastle	5
Discharge Pipe to Water Closet Renewed	2
New Bogie secured for Forecastle	1
Forecastle Repainted	13
Water Closets flushed on to Quays, causing nuisance ...	20
Defective Water Closets Refitted	5
Defective Ports Renewed	10
19 New Port Glasses fixed	5
Holds Washed out after cargoes of Herrings ..	6
Steam Pipe to Radiator in Berth leaking at joint causing dampness	5
Defective Flush Tank to Water Closet renewed ...	1

Defective Bulkhead between W.C. and Forecastle,

Temporary Repairs	..	...	..	1
Doors to Forecastles refixed	..	...	...	2
Forecastle to Wash and Repaint, sailed before completed				1
Wash Room dirty, cleared of Coils of Ropes, etc.			...	1
Waste Food, causing nuisance	...	...	..	4
Damp Grain taken from Bilges, causing nuisance			...	1
Fresh Water unfit for use, Tanks emptied	...		...	3
Defective Bogie Funnels renewed	...	...	...	4
Bogie Refixed in Forecastle	...	..	...	1
Ventilators Refixed on Forecastle Head	...		...	1

193

Vessels Arriving from Infected and Suspected Ports.

The following Table shows the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the Officers of the Port Sanitary Authority on account of coming directly or otherwise from Foreign Ports, infected or suspected of being infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever or Small Pox :—

Months 1923	From Infected Ports		From Suspected Ports		Totals
	Direct to Blyth	To Blyth indirectly	Direct to Blyth	To Blyth indirectly	
January	...	2	...	6	8
February	...	1	...	...	1
March	1	2	3
April	...	4	...	...	4
May	2	2
June	...	4	...	1	5
July	...	4	...	3	7
August	...	3	...	3	6
September	...	1	...	5	6
October	...	1	...	3	4
November	...	1	...	...	1
December	...	4	...	1	5
<hr/>					
	NIL	25	1	26	52
<hr/>					

The above Vessels arriving at Blyth had come directly or indirectly from the following Ports :—

Archangel	...	...	7
Petrograd	...	...	15
Reval	...	...	1
Murmansk	...	...	1
River Plate	...	...	1
Port Arthur	...	...	1
Rosaria	...	...	1
Libau	...	...	1
Constantinople	...	...	1
Indian Ports	...	...	2
Greek	...	...	1
West African Ports	...	...	5
West Indian	„	...	1
Spanish	„	...	7
Black Sea	„	...	2
Braila	...	...	3
Constanza	...	...	1
Algiers	...	...	1

Total 52.

NATIONALITIES OF VESSELS ARRIVING AT THE PORT OF BLYTH, 1923.

British	...	..	1046
Norge	...	...	561
Swedish	..	..	235
Danish	..	.	177
French	..	...	20
Belgian	..	..	50
German	..	...	349
Dutch	...	...	55
Greek	...	...	3
Finnish	..	...	15
Esthonian	..	...	9
Lettish	...	...	22
Russian	...	..	19
Spanish	...	..	4
Italian	...	..	4
Danzig Free State	..	..	9
Jugo Slav	...	...	3
Memel	...	...	3
Roumanian	..	..	1
			<hr/>
			2585
			<hr/>

Reports of Inspections made and work done under the Rat and
Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Form C.—PLAGUE PREVENTION MEASURES AGAINST RATS.

Names of Vessels arriving in the Port of Blyth.		Vessels Subjected to Measures of Rat Destruction					
Plague Infected.	Plague Suspected.	Names of Vessels		From Infected Ports	Other Vessels	Measures Employed.	No. of Rats killed
		Plague Infected	Plague Suspected.				
				Stroma Roma		Searched	
					Horn Odland Smyrna Loos Lerke	Poison " Searched " Fumigated Traps & Poison	36
				Hermion	Britannic Vera Odland Asplund Sirte Jacob Sverdlov Duva Vicia Weischel	Traps Poison " Traps " Traps " Searched Traps Poison Searched	7 8 2 9 29
				Nurnberg Helios Citos		"	
				Renteria	Condor Gwyonmead	Poison " Searched Poison	
				Irtysb	Rounton Trotsky	Traps Searched	51
				Glenmoor	Carisbrook Thorunn	Traps Poison Searched	33
				Tune Tolsa	Andalusia Bromma	Traps Traps Searched	15 3
				Neutral Maid of Patras Liv Jugoslaven Sunhaven Kamo	Karl Leibnecht	" " Traps Searched "	65
				Rogier Sunfield Arktos Elsdon	Vera	Poison Searched "	
				Alfa	Freya	" Fumigated Traps	8 13
				Bravore m.v.	Havmoy	Searched Fumigated Searched	
				Irtysb Carmen	Faleo Nordmark	Traps "	6 5
				Doura	Macedonia Ester	Searched " Traps	18 6
				Eros	Mineral Doura	Traps Searched	25
						"	

RATS DESTROYED, 1923. Form C.

Number of	Jan.	Feb	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
Black Rats	9		36	30	58	85	65	35		8	68	20	414
Brown Rats					32	12			44		30		118
Rats examined													
Rats infected with Plague													
Rats not infected													
Poison Baits laid	40	50	100	195	320	780		50	300		2488		4323

During February and March, Mr. Chapman, the Port Sanitary Authority's Ratcatcher was on leave for three weeks doing training in the Royal Naval Reserve.

The following number of vessels arriving at Blyth in water ballast were found to have been dealt with for Rats at the Port of discharge :

- 50 Had been fumigated.
- 13 Had Poison laid in German Ports:
- 11 Trapping had been carried out by Port Sanitary Authorities at other Ports.
- also 8 Captains secured Poison and put it down under our supervision.
- 10 Had traps on board and were being used by the crews.
- 2 Captains carried out fumigation under our supervision.
- 1 Vessel fumigated by us, having come from infected Port.
- 8 Engaged the Port Sanitary Ratcatcher at Blyth.
- 1 Captain applied for Certificate which was granted after the vessel had been thoroughly searched and found clear of Rats and Mice.
- 4 Business premises have been cleared in the town.

A yearly or haif-yearly contract with business men, to keep the rate down, would be a good insurance against damage which these destructive vermin cause.

No reports of sickness amongst rats on board vessels arriving at Blyth have been received, and all rats caught have been in a healthy condition, consequently I have not sent any to be bacteriologically examined.

Rat week commenced November 5th. To enlist the co-operation of all, letters were sent to the various business firms having premises or works along the River side within the District of the Port Sanitary Authority.

Also letters were sent to the Marine Store Dealers in the town.

There was a ready response and a week's poisoning was carried out.

The Rats were fed with suitable food for a few days and then 2,488 poison baits were put down

The results are encouraging as very few rats have been seen since, while rat holes that were closed have not been opened out and the rat runs have been deadened through disuse.

Whenever we notice the rats in numbers along the Quay side we have a poison campaign amongst them.

They come and go and premises clear one month may be infested the next, so that constant attention is needed to keep them down.

The number of vessels arriving here from other Ports which have been dealt with, and the increasing number of vessels clear of Rats are indications that Port Sanitary Authorities are alert, and that their work is achieving a measure of success.

I have not found a bad case of infestation during the year.

On account of industrial trouble, ship repairing work has been very slack at Blyth. But now the yards are at work again and the grain trade is being resumed with Russia, we may expect to have more grain carrying vessels calling at Blyth for cargoes of coal on return voyages.

Close attention will be paid to these to keep them free from rats.

There is a growing need for a quick and affective method for fumigating vessels which can be carried out at a reasonable charge.

The enforcement of periodic fumigation of vessels if thoroughly done would do much to solve the Rat problem.

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM IRVING, A.R.S.I.

Executive Officer.